

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ACCRA 05113 061545Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 PC-01

IO-13 /087 W

-----071598 061945Z /44

R 061113Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8936

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GH

SUBJECT: TUC HEAD ON MINIMUM WAGE AND POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: (A) ACCRA 5042; (B) ACCRA 5001; (C) ACCRA 4934; (D) ACCRA
A25.

1. SUMMARY. GHANAIAN WORKERS TO RECEIVE NEW MINIMUM WAGE
OF FOUR CEDIS (\$3.48) PER DAY AS OF JULY 1. AGREEMENT ON
NEW MINIMUM CAN BE SEEN AS PAYOFF TO KEEP UNIONS FROM
JOINING DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST REGIME, NOTABLY STRIKE OF
PROFESSIONAL WORKERS. REFUSAL THUS FAR OF TRADES UNION CONGRESS (TUC)
TO SUPPORT STRIKE ALSO DUE TO DISTRUST OF "ELITE" PROFESSIONALS
AND FEAR OF UNPREDICTABLE RESULTS FROM HASTY ACTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY LABOR REPORTING OFFICER MET WITH TUC SECGEN, A.M.
ISSIFU, TO DISCUSS NEW MINIMUM WAGE AND LABOR'S VIEWS ON
CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. NEW MINIMUM WAGE OF KFOUR
CEDIS PER DAY IS 48 PERCENT INCREASE OVER MINIMUM ESTABLISHED
IN GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER EARLY THIS YEAR (REF D). THE NEW
SALARY, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, COVERS ALL LABOR EXCEPT AGRI-
CULTURAL WORKERS AND DOMESTIC HELP. ACCORDING TO TUC
SECGEN, LABOR IS NOW PRESSING FOR A BOARD TO CONTROL PAY OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ACCRA 05113 061545Z

THESE WORKERS.

3. ACCORDING TO ISSIFU, HE FIRST RAISED THE FOUR CEDI
MINIMUM WAGE IN 1974 AND HAS MENTIONED IT IN AT LEAST ONE
RECENT SPEECH. AS FORESEEN IN JANUARY 1977 WHITE PAPER,
TALKS BETWEEN TUC AND GOG BEGAN IN LATE MAY AND CONTINUED
WHEN ISSIFUL RETURNED FROM ANNUAL ILO MEETING WEEK OF JUNE 27.

ACCORDING TO ISSIFU, UNIONS HAD DOCUMENTED THEIR CLAIM FOR NEW MINIMUM WAGE AND NEGOTIATIONS MOVED QUICKLY. ISSIFU DOES NOT DENY INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF HIGHER WAGES, BUT COUNTERED THAT WORKERS CANNOT MAKE ENDS MEET ON LESS THAN FOUR CEDIS DAILY. ISSIFU SAID GOG TO TAKE UNSPECIFIED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES RESULTING FROM INCREASE. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TUC AND GOG ON RELATED ISSUES CONTINUING.

4. ISSIFU'S APPOINTMENT AS ADVISOR TO HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG WAS REVERSED SOON AFTER HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA. BEFORE CONSULTING TUC EXECUTIVE BOARD, ISSIFU TOLD ACHEAMPONG HE COULD NOT ACCEPT GOG APPOINTMENT AND REMAIN TUC HEAD, WHICH

IS FULL TIME JOB. ACCORDING TO ISSIFU, HE AND ACHEAMPONG PARTED ON FRIENDLY TERMS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NEW MINIMUM WAGE AND TUC REFUSAL THUS FAR TO SUPPORT THREATENED STRIKE OF PROFESSIONALS (REF C) MUST BE RELATED, OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCED UNIONS' DECISION. TUC HEAD SEEMS GENUINELY FEARFUL OF CHAOS THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM HASTY CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, NOTING THAT HONERTY OF LEADERS, NOT FORM OF GOVERNMENT, KEY FACTOR. THERE IS ALSO LONG SENDING MISTRUSTED

OF "ELITE
" PROFESSIONALS BY LABOR.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ACCRA 05113 061545Z

ACCORDING TO ISSIFU, SOME LEADERS OF PROFESSIONALS, NOW CLAIMING TO ACT IN WORKERS' INTEREST, WERE PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO VOTED TO CLOSE TUC UNDER PREVIOUS REGIME.
SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINIMUM WAGE, POLITICAL SITUATION, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA05113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770240-0060
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770790/aaaaczvm.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07d5b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ACCRA 5042, 77 ACCRA 5001, 77 ACCRA 4934
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1961079
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TUC HEAD ON MINIMUM WAGE AND POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, GH, TUC, (ISSIFU, AM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07d5b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009